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USSN 09/988,689
Response

Docket No. THOLAM P167US

PATENT
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT
Application of: : Earl Alexander Culham

Serial No. : 09/988,689

Title : Method of Linking Web Pages

Filed : November 20, 2001

Art Unit : 2178

Examiner : Kyle R. Stork

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

August 11, 2005

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4 pages in Total

1-571-273-8300

Dear Kyle:

In our phone interview on June 28, 2005, which included you, your supervisor, and myself, it was determined that the prior arts you had cited did not anticipate one key aspect of this invention, namely the fact that Supplementary Links do not take up any visible space on the output rendering of the primary web page. It was also decided that the wording of the independent claims could and should be tightened up to focus on this particular aspect of the invention.

In the Claims:

Each claim has been marked as to whether it is Currently Amended, Previously Amended, or Original, in order to assist you in evaluating the changes.

70. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of linking web pages, comprising the steps of:

associating at least one supplementary link with a primary web page, such supplementary link lacks the features of the anchor which make a regular hypertext link visible and selectable, thus a supplementary link is normally hidden from view and does not disrupt the flow of text or graphics displayed on the web page;

providing information processing means by which the at least one supplementary link is transformed into a regular hypertext link.